NUMB. LXXXIV.

The GUARDIAN.

Non missura cutem nisi plena cruoris hirudo. Hor.

Wednesday, June 17. 1713.

Middle-Temple, June 12.

To the Honoured NESTOR IRONSIDE, *Esq;*

SIR,

'PResuming you may sometimes condescend 'to take Cognizance of small Enormities, 'I here lay one before you, which I pro- 'ceed to without further Apology, as 'well knowing that the best Compliment to a Man 'of Business is to come to the Point.

'There is a silly Habit among many of our Minor 'Orators, who display their Eloquence in the seve- 'ral Coffee-houses of this fair City, to the no small 'Annoyance of considerable Numbers of her Maje- 'sty's peruce and loving Subjects, and that is a 'Humour they have got of twisting off your But- 'tons. These Ingenious Gentlemen are not able 'to advance three Words till they have got fast hold 'of one of your Buttons; but as soon as they have 'procured such an excellent handle for Discourse, 'they will indeed proceed with great Elocution. I 'know not how well some may have escaped, but 'for my part I have often met with them to my 'Cost, having I believe within these three Years 'last past been argued out of several Dozens; in- 'somuch that I have for some Time ordered my 'Taylor to bring me home with every Suit a dozen 'at least of spare ones, to supply the Place of such 'as from time to time are detached as an Help to 'Discourse, by the vehement Gentlemen before- 'mentioned. This way of holding a Man in Dis- 'course is much practised in the Coffee-houses 'within the City, and does not indeed so much 'prevail at the politer End of the Town. It is 'likewise more frequently made use of among the 'small Politicians, than any other Body of Men: 'I am therefore something cautious of entering 'into a Controversie with this Species of Statesmen, 'especially the younger Fry; for if you offer in the 'least to dissent from any thing that one of these 'advances, he immediately steps up to you, takes 'hold of one of your Buttons, and indeed will 'soon convince you of the Strength of his Argu- 'mentation. I remember upon the News of *Dun- 'kirk* being delivered into our Hands, a brisk little 'Fellow, a Politician and an able Engineer, had 'got into the middle of *Batson's* Coffee-house, and 'was fortifying *Grapeling*, for the Service of the 'most-Christian King, with all imaginable Expedition. 'The Work was carried on with such Success, 'that in less than a quarter of an Hour's time he 'had made it almost impregnable, and, in the Opi- 'nion of several worthy Citizens who had gather'd 'round him, full as strong both by Sea and Land 'as *Dunkirk* ever could pretend to be. I happened, 'however, unadvisedly to attack some of his Out- 'works; upon which, to shew his great Skill like- 'wise in the Offensive Part, he immediately made 'an Assault upon one of my Buttons, and carried 'it in less than two Minutes, notwithstanding I 'made as handsome a Defence as was possible: 'He had likewise invested a second, and would 'certainly have been Master of that too in a very 'little time, had not he been diverted from this 'Enterprize by the Arrival of a Courier, who 'brought Advice that his Presence was absolutely 'necessary in the Disposal of a Beaver; upon which 'he raised the Siege, and indeed retired with some 'Precipitation. In the Coffee-houses here about the '*Temple* you may Harangue even among our Dab- 'lers in Politicks for about two Buttons a Day, 'and many times for less. I had yesterday the good 'Fortune to receive very considerable Additions to 'my Knowledge in State-Affairs, and I find this 'Morning that it has not stood me in above a But- 'ton.

(Price Two Pence.)